	<b>Action</b>	<u>Item</u>	4
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## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION DIRECTIVE

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER		DATE	December 04, 2013
MOTOR CARRIER MATTER		DOCKET NO.	2013-124-C
UTILITIES MATTER	~	ORDER NO.	

## **SUBJECT:**

<u>Party Relay Fund and Request for Expedited Review</u> - Discuss with the Commission the Office of Regulatory Staff's Petition and Status Report and Long Term Sustainability of the Dual Party Relay Fund.

## **COMMISSION ACTION:**

The Office of Regulatory Staff has filed a Petition concerning solvency issues with the South Carolina Dual Party Relay Fund. This Fund was established by the General Assembly to provide telephone access to persons who are hearing or speech impaired, and ORS is designated as the state agency tasked with its oversight. Currently, the Fund is supported by a 25 cent monthly access charge on all residential and business land lines in the state. However, ORS states that the Fund's budget requirements are not being met because the use of land line phones is declining. ORS also states that the Fund will be insolvent by 2017 if changes are not made to modernize its funding mechanism. To remedy this situation, it recommends legislative action that will expand the access charge to the growing market of wireless and VOIP providers. Although such legislative action is beyond the Commission's jurisdiction, in the meantime, ORS seeks Commission approval to pursue strategies to ensure the Fund's long term sustainability, such as a Memorandum of Understanding reducing the cost of providing captioning services for sessions of the General Assembly and reducing spending on services for local news broadcasts. Having reviewed the Petition and ORS's report, I move that we adopt its recommendations for the long term stability of the Fund and approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between ORS, ETV, and the General Assembly.

PRESIDING:	Hamiltor	<u>1</u>		SESSION: Regular	TIME:	2:00 p.m.
FLEMING HALL HAMILTON HOWARD MCGEE		YES  V	NO OTHER	SESSION: Regular	TIME:	2:00 p.m.
RANDALL WHITFIELD		<b>V</b>				

(SEAL) RECORDED BY: J. Schmieding

